

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-8, 18, 19, and 24-26 are pending in the application, with 1, 6, 18 and 24 being the independent claims. Claims 9, 16, 17, and 20-23 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 24-26 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered after final rejection because they place the application in condition for allowance, as described in more detail below.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 1-9, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,771,164 to Gellert. Claims 9, 16 and 17 have been cancelled, thereby rendering their rejection moot. Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to clarify that the heater and temperature sensor are embedded within the nozzle for substantially the entire length each is wrapped around the nozzle. In the Gellert '164 patent, the thermocouple 92 is only embedded within the nozzle at hole 134. Thus the thermocouple 92 is not embedded within the nozzle for substantially the entire length it is wrapped around the nozzle, as recited in claims 1 and 6. Claims 2-5 and 7-8 depend from and add features to independent claims 1 and 6, respectively, and are

therefore not anticipated by the Gellert '164 patent for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 6. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 18-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Gellert '164 patent. Claims 20-23 have been cancelled, thereby rendering their rejection moot. The Examiner relied on the portion of the thermocouple 92 of the Gellert '164 patent inserted into hole 134 as disclosing that the heater wire 72 and the thermocouple 92 are substantially equidistant from a centerline of the melt channel. However, independent claim 18 has been amended above to clarify that the heater and the temperature sensor are substantially equidistant from the centerline of the melt channel *from a first portion adjacent the manifold to a tip portion adjacent the mold cavity*. The Gellert '164 patent does not disclose or render obvious such a configuration. Claim 19 depends from and adds features to independent claim 18 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 18. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

***New Claims***

New claims 24-26 are similar to the claims discussed above, except that they specifically recite the insulating layer in which said thermocouple wire element is embedded.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be

withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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